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SOURCE Hsi-pei T'u-t'e-chan Kai-k'uang (Special Native Products of Northwest China), compiled by Hsi-pei Chun-cheng Wei-yuan-hui Ts'ai-ching Wei-yuan-hui (Committee of Finance and Economics, Northwest Military and Administrative Committee) published by Hsin-hua Shu-tien Hsi-pei Tsung-fen-tien

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SPECIAL PRODUCTS OF NORTHWEST CHINA, 1951

[Comment: This report gives general information on the products of the five provinces of the Northwest Administrative Area of China. In addition to data on production and sales of the various products, the report includes information on methods of cultivation and processing. Some of the tables contain standards for sorting and grading, and much of the information refers to different types of packing.

It should be noted that there are occasional discrepancies between figures quoted in the text and in the tables. Also, some of the products mentioned are of only local importance; for example, as food or ingredients in native medicines.

Statistics were usually given in round figures and dates or sources were rarely furnished in the original source. The basis for computing the "annual production" of most of the products was not given.]

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I. ANIMAL PRODUCTS

A. Yearly Production of Wool (weights in chin, one chin equals 0.5 kilograms)

Product	Shensi	Kansu	Ningsia	Tsinghai	Sinkiang	Total
Wool	1,148,539	7,396,000	1,935,000	12,901,000	25,184,000	48,616,000
Fine wool	191,416	404,000	88,000	70,625	681,000	1,436,831
Camel's hair	12,957	215,000	1,153,000	68,000	389,000	1,840,321

Yearly Sale of Wool

Product	Shensi	Kansu	Ningsia	Tsinghai	Sinkiang	Total
Wool	500,000	9,600,000	12,800,000	10,820,000	10,790,000	32,990,000 <u>avg</u>
Fine wool	95,000	85,000	40,000	5,000	329,000	549,000
Camel's hair	5,000	107,000	227,000	33,000	314,000	686,000

B. Production of All Types of Hides (No of hides per year)

Cowhides	168,541	196,120	15,068	101,258	247,586	738,573
Sheepskins	132,720	854,741	229,468	1,490,840	2,909,561	5,617,330
Lambskins	117,916	453,375	114,270	555,925	1,286,096	2,527,582
Goatskins	176,109	372,415	81,447	64,975	626,946	1,321,892
Kidskins	--	87,149	--	--	--	87,149
Wolf skins	3,000	3,500	2,000	1,400	2,100	12,000
Cat skins	10,000	5,000	5,000	--	--	20,000
Rabbit skins	20,000	3,000	--	--	--	23,000

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Colt hides	3,530	2,000	500	2,000	11,500	19,580
Sao-hsleh hides	--	400	300	--	--	1,000
Horse hides	9,300	20,000	8,407	25,000	28,100	90,807
Mule hides	1,004	14,427	1,054	1,000	--	17,485
Donkey hides	10,161	56,280	17,557	2,000	3,250	89,248
Camel hides	--	15,500	29,506	--	2,200	47,208
Dog skins	--	82,500	--	1,500	--	84,000
Ha-erh skins	--	155,250	--	100,005	--	255,255
Pei skins	--	--	--	--	900	900
Fox skins	8,000	20,018	1,260	5,000	13,170	48,048
Monkey skins	--	1,263	750	800	340	3,153
"Water" otter skins	--	875	--	150	--	1,025
"Autumn" otter skins	--	--	--	--	129,500	129,500
Raccoon skins	--	4,176	170	--	--	4,346
Leopard skins	--	--	--	50	510	560
Bear skins	--	--	--	100	--	100
Sable skins	--	--	--	--	566,800	566,800
Marten skins	--	--	--	--	7,800	7,800
Badger skins	--	--	--	--	32,000	32,000

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Unborn lambskins	--	--	--	--	142,000	142,000
Bat skins	--	525	--	--	--	525
Weasel skins	--	5,120	--	--	2,300	7,420
Squirrel skins	--	--	--	--	20,000	20,000

Annual Sale of Hides

Cowhides	50,000	94,000	50,000	66,000	87,000	348,000
Sheepskins	141,000	319,000	94,000	255,000	426,000	1,236,000
Goatskins	60,000	72,000	25,900	300	303,000	461,000

C. Annual Production of Gut (No of pieces)

Goat	310,000	23,000	72,000	--	726,000	1,131,230
Sheep	155,300	426,000	160,000	400,000	2,007,000	3,228,300
Hog	130,000	145,000	20,000	40,000	150,000	475,000

Annual Sale of Gut

Sheep and goat	279,180	265,400	139,200	240,000	1,687,973	2,615,718
Hog	60,000	72,500	10,000	20,000	75,000	237,500

D. Annual Production and Sale of Hog Bristles (in chin)

Production	232,000	171,000	21,000	19,000	14,000	459,000
Sale	162,000	119,000	14,000	13,000	10,000	321,000

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E. Annual Production of Live Hogs (approximate number of animals)

Shensi	1,000,000
Kansu	1,000,000
Ningsia	200,000-300,000
Tsinghai	200,000-300,000
Sinkiang	200,000-300,000
Total	3,000,000

F. Eggs

The following production figures are from preliminary statistics. According to the report of the Farm and Forest Section of the National Production Conference of December 1949, the yearly egg production for the entire country was about 16,500,000,000. The provinces having the greatest production were Anhwei, Szechwan, Honan, Hopeh, and Kiangsu. Next were Shantung, Hupeh, Kwangsi, Chekiang, Hunan, and Kwangtung.

The production by administrative areas was as follows:

Central South China	5,660,650,000
East China	5,036,000,000
North China	2,031,050,000
Southwest (not including Sinkiang)	1,877,920,000
Northwest	
Shensi	172,800,000
Kansu	199,280,000
Tsinghai	15,920,000
Ningsia	3,010,000
Sinkiang	7,560,000

II. "MOUNTAIN PRODUCTS," FIBERS AND LACQUER

A. Fibers

The total annual production of hemp, flax, and ramie in the Northwest is 21,217,247 chin, distributed as follows:

<u>Province</u>	<u>Hemp</u>	<u>Flax</u>	<u>Ramie</u>
Shensi	3,178,616	250,000	400,000
Kansu	8,287,105	2,909,735	

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<u>Province</u>	<u>Hemp</u>	<u>Flax</u>	<u>Ramie</u>
Ningsia	2,050,544	607,842	
Sinkiang	168,000	3,365,410	

B. Raw Lacquer

Southern Shensi is largely mountainous and lacquer trees are commonly found on the slopes. In 1949, production was about 250,000 chin. At present, production is increasing and the yearly production is about 420,000 chin. The T'ien-shui Special Administrative District of Kansu also produces about 20,000 chin per year.

Production of Raw Lacquer in 1949

<u>Special Administrative Districts</u>	<u>Hsien</u>	<u>Amount (chin)</u>
Han-chung	Nan-cheng	1,200
	Yang-hsien	300
	Hsi-hsiang	520
	Chen-pa	8,000
An-k'ang	P'ing-li	120,000
	Tzu-yang	25,000
	Lan-k'o	55,000
	An-k'ang	3,000
	Hsun-yang	12,000
	Shih-ch'uan	4,500
	Han-yin	15,000
	Pai-ho	7,000
	Chen-p'ing	8,000
	Total	259,500

C. Tumeric

Tumeric is a special product of southern Shensi. Production in 1950 was 800,000 chin.

D. Tobacco

Tobacco production for the entire country in 1950 was 2,510,000 shih-tan (one shih-tan equals 50 kilograms). The supply fell short of the demand by about 60,000 shih-tan. Chinese tobacco is not only sold domestically but is also in demand by the new People's Democracies of Europe.

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Preliminary statistics on tobacco production in Shensi in 1950 are as follows:

	<u>Tobacco Production (in chin)</u>
Ch'ang-an Hsien	52,629
Hsien-yang Special Administrative Distr	1,112,400
Wei-nan Special Administrative District	1,350,900
Pao-chi Special Administrative District	1,160,801
Han-chung Special Administrative District	1,448,119
An-k'ang Special Administrative District	365,187
Shang-lo Special Administrative District	891,550
Sui-te Special Administrative District	84,610
Yen-an Special Administrative District	378,182
Yü-lin Special Administrative District	129,676
Total	6,974,054

The total area planted in tobacco in Shensi was 87,797 mou.

Kansu produced about 3 million chin of tobacco, Ningxia about 564,305 chin, and Tsinghai 70,000-80,000 chin. The total production in the Northwest was about 12,610,000 chin (figures for Sinkiang are not available).

E. Raw Silk

Of the five northwestern provinces, Sinkiang produces about 400,000 chin of raw silk annually and Shensi 76,800 chin. In May 1950, the price of raw silk at An-k'ang was 2,600,000 yuan per picul [one picul equals 133.33 pounds] equivalent to 61.9 tou of rice [one tou equals 10.35 liters].

F. Tea

In the Northwest, tea is grown only in southern Shensi. The following hsien produce tea. Tzu-yang, Lan-kao, An-k'ang, Han-yin, Hsün-yang, Shih-ch'uan, P'ing-li, and Chen-pa. The total annual production is about 1,550,000 chin.

Prices of Tea per 100 Chin, 1950

<u>Type</u>	<u>Yuan</u>	<u>Equivalent in Corn</u>
Mao chien	1,200,000	24 tou
Fine man-tzu	800,000	16 tou
Coarse man-tzu	600,000	12 tou
Coarse tea	300,000	6 tou

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G. Gallnuts (Source of tannin)

The chief sources of this product in China are in the Southwest and in Hunan and Hupeh. In the Northwest, only Shensi is a producing area. The annual production is 2,606,000 chin.

H. "Water-Pipe Tobacco"

Water-pipe tobacco is grown chiefly around Lan-chou in Kansu. Total production in 1950 was 3,580,000 chin at Lan-chou; 1,300,000 chin at Kao-lan hsien and 1,200,000 chin at Yu-chung hsien and Lin-t'ao hsien.

Prices of Water-Pipe Tobacco According to Grade

Ch'ing yen	4,000 yuan per chin
Mao yen	2,500 yuan per chin
W. yen	1,100 yuan per chin

I. Indigo

Shensi produces a yearly total of 1,472,000 chin of indigo, of which Nan-cheng Special Administrative District produces one million chin. In addition, Chiu-ch'uan Special Administrative District of Kansu produces 38,400 chin and Wu-wei produces 147,000 chin. Total production for the Northwest is 1,657,400 chin.

Prices of Indigo

<u>Quality</u>	<u>Yuan</u>	<u>Equivalent in Rice</u>
High	540,000 per 100 chin	12 tou
Medium	360,000 per 100 chin	8 tou
Low	270,000 per 100 chin	6 tou

J. Oak Bark (Source of tannin)

Oak bark is produced in southern Shensi in an area centering around Shih-ch'uan. Annual production is about 2,750,000 chin.

K. Beeswax

Shensi produces about 24,800 chin of beeswax annually and Kansu about 100,000 chin.

L. White Wax

Nan-cheng and An-k'ang Special Administrative Districts of Shensi produce about 15,000 chin of white wax per year.

M. Charcoal

Charcoal is produced in the following Special Administrative Districts of Shensi:

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Nan-cheng	1,200,000 chin per year
Shang-lo	4,790,000 chin per year
Wei-nan	10,300,000 chin per year

In addition, T'ien-shui Special Administrative District of Kansu produces 4,800,000 chin per year.

N. Rubber Plant (*Taraxacum platycarpum*)

There are two principal varieties of this plant: the richest in rubber and the most widely grown is the green rubber type, the second is the sand rubber type. The raw rubber produced by the rubber plant grown in Sinkiang is comparable to that produced in the South Seas area except that the color is blacker. Means of correcting this fault are being studied at present.

The green rubber plant is grown chiefly in the Chao-su area of southern Sinkiang. This area is more than 50 kilometers long and 2 to 3 kilometers wide. The sand rubber plant grows in parts of Sinkiang and Kansu but the latex content is less. The growth of the plant in northern Kansu and Ningsia is now being investigated.

In the Kuldja and Chao-su districts of Sinkiang, the wild green rubber plant grows at an average density of 100 plants per square meter. One shih-mou (one shih-mou equals .1647 acre) produces 100 kilograms of dry plants. This amount can be doubled by cultivation.

The people's government has been giving much attention to these latex-bearing plants and methods of refining and manufacturing with very great results. The areas where the rubber plant grows in western China are contiguous with those in the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union has supplied newly developed varieties of the plant and assigned technicians to aid China in cultivation and refining.

The growing areas in the Soviet Union are at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level, the climate is very cold and rainfall is scanty, 300 millimeters. In view of these conditions, China possesses areas in Sinkiang, in Inner Mongolia, in the Northeast, and in the Northwest where soil and climate are suitable for cultivation of the plants. If all these areas are utilized, the future production of raw material for rubber will be without limit.

III. FATS AND OILS

A. Tung Oil

The principal producing areas are south of Ch'in-ling, along both banks of the upper Han Chiang and areas centering around An-k'ang. The total annual production is 25,000 quintals. Other areas in Han-chung, Pao-ch'eng, Yang Hsien, Ch'eng-ku, Hsi-hsiang, Shang-nan, Shan-yang, Chen-an, Ning-ch'iang, Han-yin, Tzu-yang, Hsing-an, Tso-shui, Chen-pa and Mien Hsien produce about 5,000 quintals annually. In addition, the T'ien-shui Special Administrative District of Kansu produces a small amount. The total annual production is 5 million chin or more.

B. Annual Production of Rapeseed Oil (in shih-tan)

Shensi	325,782
Kansu	141,019

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Tsinghai	35,246
Sinkiang	195,173
Total	697,220

C. Wood Oil (vegetable tallow)

Preliminary statistics indicate about 150,000 chin are produced annually.

D. Vegetable Wax

Nan-cheng in Shensi and An-k'ang Special Administrative Districts produced 1,482,430 chin in 1950.

E. Annual Production of Peanut Oil (in shih-tan)

Shensi	11,000
Kansu	8,170
Ningsia	130
Tsinghai	600
Sinkiang	130
Total	20,000

F. Annual Production of Cottonseed Oil (in shih-tan)

Shensi	306,293
Kansu	9,838
Sinkiang	59,522
Total	375,653

G. Annual Production of Hempseed Oil (in chin)

Northern Shensi	728,000
Central Ningsia	20,000

H. Annual Production of Sesame Seed Oil (in shih-tan)

Shensi	31,410
Kansu	24,000
Ningsia	390
Tsinghai	1,800
Sinkiang	400
Total	58,000

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I. Production of Sheep Tallow in 1950 (in chin)

Shensi	900,000
Kansu	2,580,000
Ningsia	538,000
Tsinghai	5,280,000
Sinkiang	8,706,000
Total	18,004,000

J. Production of Beef Tallow in 1950 (in chin)

Shensi	406,000
Kansu	304,000
Ningsia	480,000
Tsinghai	610,000
Sinkiang	1,200,000
Total	3,000,000

K. Production of Rapeseed in 1950 (in shih-tan)

Shensi	1,036,000
Kansu	335,000
Sinkiang	40,000
Total	1,411,000

L. Hempseed

Shensi produces 3,783,200 chin of hempseed per year and Ningsia produces a small additional amount.

M. Flaxseed

The total annual production of flaxseed in the Northwest is about 22,000 shih-tan. Production of linseed oil amounts to about 500,000 shih-tan.

N. Sesame Seed

Shensi and Sinkiang each produces about 130,000 shih-tan of sesame seed annually.

IV. MEDICINAL MATERIALSA. Annual Production of Licorice (in chin)

Shensi	1,024,000
Kansu	1,650,000

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Ningisa 2,000,000

Tsinghai 35,000

The supply of licorice is more than sufficient for the needs of the country and a large quantity is available for export. However, much of the licorice does not meet necessary standards because of the lack of processors.

B. Annual Production of Rhubarb (in chin)

Kansu 2,110,000

Tsinghai 850,000

Shensi 55,700

Total 3,015,700

C. Ligusticum Acutilobum

This is one of China's export products. In 1950, the total production, largely in Kansu, was about 4,705,000 chin.

D. Tang-shen (a kind of ginseng)

Annual production amounts to 840,000 chin in Kansu and 247,680 chin in Shensi; a total of 1,087,680 chin.

E. Lycium Chinense

Central Ningsia produces about 2,500 shih-tan annually. In 1950, Kansu produced 30,000 chin.

F. Annual Production of Fritillaria Verticillata (in chin)

Shensi 18,000

Kansu 55,200

Tsinghai 200

Sinkiang 300

Total 73,700

G. Annual Production of Ch'in-chiao (in chin)

Ch'in-chiao is a plant peculiar to the Northwest.

Shensi 48,000

Kansu 646,500

Tsinghai 100,000

H. Angelica Sylvestris

In 1950, Kansu and Tsinghai each produced one million chin of Angelica Sylvestris.

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I. Magnolia Obovata

Shensi produced 114,000 chin of Magnolia Obovata in 1950.

J. Annual Production of Musk (in liang, one liang equals 1.1 ounces)

Shensi	2,317
Kansu	1,000
Tsinghai	1,000
Total	4,317

K. Talc

About 10,000 chin of talc is produced in Shang Hsien, Shensi, per year.

V. NONMETALLIC MINERALS

A. Petroleum

The Yu-men oil field in Kansu was established with equipment brought from northern Shensi, the first well being drilled in 1939. The Northwest has a great oil-field area and rich reserves which are now being explored and developed.

The chief petroleum products in the Northwest are gasoline and kerosene. By-products are: heavy lubricating oil, fuel oil, gun oil, petroleum jelly, wax canals, match wax, and pitch.

The gasoline produced has an octane rating of 65 and is entirely suitable for use in our country.

The kerosene is used for lighting and at present has a 42-44 A. P. I. American Petroleum Institute rating. It gives a strong light without smoke and can also be used in gasoline lamps. Although it is slightly yellow, this does not affect the quality.

The heavy lubricating oil still does not meet standards but the results of general tests are very good.

The fuel oil, with a 37-38 A. P. I., is excellent in comparison with fuel oils currently on the market. It contains wax crystals that are not removed by the present refining system, but at temperatures above 70° Fahrenheit this does not interfere with its use. Steps are now being taken to expand and improve equipment.

Petroleum jelly and wax candles are sufficient to supply only the needs of the Northwest Administrative Area.

Match wax is used in the manufacture of matches. All match factories in the Northwest and Tsingtao have bought it and recognize it as being very good.

A large quantity of pitch is produced. It is used in road repair and construction. It has been sold in Sian and Hankow and has served well.

At present, in addition to supplying fully the needs of the Northwest Administrative Area, part of the demand of all other administrative areas can also be met. Production techniques are being improved daily and the quantity is being

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increased rapidly. Within a short time we can hope to supply a large measure of the country's needs, thus reducing imports and conserving foreign exchange.

B. Annual Production and Reserves of Salt (in metric tons)

According to the Northwest Bureau of Industry the annual production and reserves of salt are as follows:

<u>Province</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Reserves</u>
Shensi	6,900	--
Kansu	33,000	2,270,000
Ningsia	1,600,000	1,485,825,000
Tsinghai	500,000	3,007,000,000
Sinkiang	30,000	683,080,000
Total	2,169,900	5,178,125,000 [sic]

C. Annual Production of Saltpeter (in shih-tan)

Kansu	13,500
Ningsia	1,600
Tsinghai	1,000
Total	16,100

Constituents of Saltpeter

	<u>White Type (%)</u>	<u>Yellow Type (%)</u>
NaNO ₃	1.56	1.954
NaSO ₄	11.320	5.905
NaCl	18.005	14.346
CaCl	1.072	0.432
MgCl	1.176	1.547
Water	1.774	1.143
Insoluble	65.137	74.673

D. Asbestos

Shensi, Kansu, Ningsia, and Tsinghai have considerable reserves of asbestos that have not been worked. Annual production in Shensi is 100 metric tons with reserves that have been estimated as high as 5 million metric tons.

E. Alum

According to the Northwest Bureau of Industry, Shensi produces 350 metric tons of alum annually and Kansu 13,000 metric tons. Ningsia has reserves of 583,200 metric tons.

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F. Annual Production and Reserves of Gypsum (in metric tons)

<u>Province</u>	<u>Production</u>	<u>Reserves</u>
Shensi	100	500
Kansu	--	56,456,000
Ningsia	--	25,147,000
Tsinghai	400	(Figures not available)
Sinkiang	--	111,000,000
Total	500	697,004,300 [sic]

G. Sulfur

All provinces in the Northwest have sulfur, and reserves are abundant, but Shensi is the only producer. Shensi has an annual production of 350 metric tons and reserves of 700,000 metric tons. Kansu has reserves estimated at 21,040,000 metric tons.

H. Graphite

Shensi, the only producer of graphite in the Northwest, has an annual production of about 26 million chin.

I. Lime

Shensi produces 19,050 metric tons of lime annually. Lime is also produced in Kansu where there are reserves estimated at 7 million metric tons.

J. Natural Sodium Carbonate

Shensi produces 10,000 metric tons of sodium carbonate per year and Ningsia 5,000 metric tons. Reserves in Ningsia are 250 million metric tons.

K. Borax

About 300,000 chin of borax are produced annually in Tsinghai.

VI. HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS

A. Native Cloth

The annual production in the Northwest of native cloth in bolts, each bolt about 16 meters by 0.34 meters, is as follows:

Shensi	3,779,670
Kansu	3,505,760
Sinkiang	4,401,000

Tsinghai and Ningsia produce very little.

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B. Ceramic Ware

The total production of ceramic ware in the Northwest amounts to more than 4 million large and small pieces per year distributed as follows:

Shensi	3,000,000
Kansu	500,000
Ningsia	200,000
Sinkiang	50,000

Kansu "Hua-t'ing" Ware has been improved and is gradually being distributed in all provinces.

C. Paper

Paper-producing areas are widely distributed in the Northwest. The total annual production is 5,494,840 tao [one tao equals 100 sheets].

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